

B2

bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

Sub  
c1

33. (Twice Amended) A wetlaid absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

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34. (Twice Amended) A foam-formed absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

35. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising an absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

36. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising a wetlaid absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

37. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising a foam-formed absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

38. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious facing sheet;

a storage layer comprising an absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers; and

a liquid impervious backing sheet.

39. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious facing sheet;

an acquisition layer for rapidly acquiring and distributing liquid;

a storage layer comprising an absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers; and

a liquid impervious backing sheet.

40. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious facing sheet;

an acquisition layer for rapidly acquiring and distributing liquid;

a storage layer comprising an absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers;

an intermediate layer interposed between the acquisition layer and the storage layer; and

a liquid impervious backing sheet.

B4  
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c1

46. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious facing sheet;

an acquisition layer for acquiring and distributing liquid;

a storage layer; and

a liquid impervious backing sheet;

wherein the acquisition layer comprises an absorbent composite comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

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c1

53. (Amended) An absorbent composite, comprising a fibrous matrix and absorbent material, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the bands swell and form a fluted structure upon contact with liquid, wherein the regions between the bands comprise fibrous liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.

B6

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c1

55. (New) An absorbent composite comprising absorbent material in a fibrous matrix, wherein the absorbent material is present in the fibrous matrix in two or more bands, wherein the regions of the fibrous matrix between the bands comprise liquid distribution zones, and wherein the fibrous matrix comprises bonded cellulosic fibers.